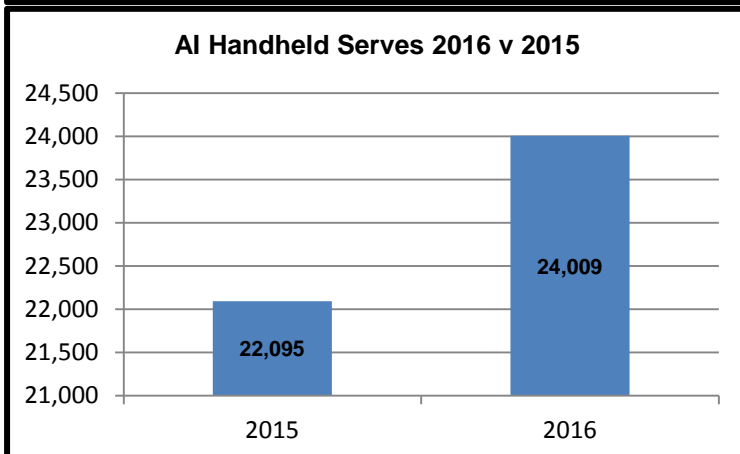
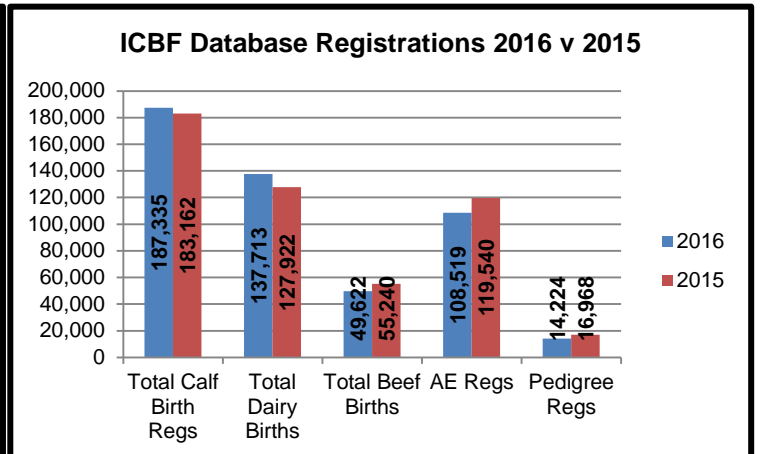
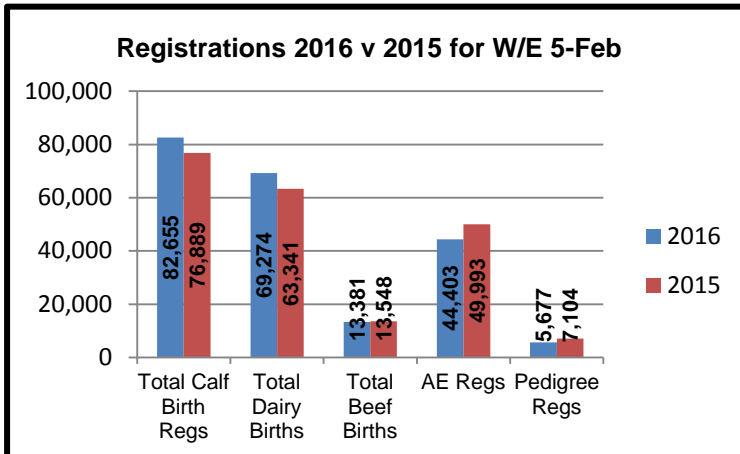


## ICBF Weekly Update 5th February 2016

### 1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 187,818 million results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 68,915 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.51 million results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

### 3 GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> Dairy

- Programme has commenced with an excellent group of bulls this Spring.

#### BREED PACKS AND AVERAGE EBI'S

- **Holstein-Friesian:** €374
- **Pure Friesian :** €269
- **Multi Breed:** €290

- The **Multi Breed** pack includes Jersey (and Jersey Cross bulls), together with Holstein-Friesian bulls for comparative purposes.
- Sign-up packs were posted to 850 herds. Already 80 herds have signed up, taking a total of 3,650 straws.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.

## 4 Herd Plus®

- ✚ The last remaining ‘HerdPlus Dairy Cow Reports’ will be posted to herd-owners next week.
- ✚ HerdPlus have now completed printing the ‘HerdPlus Co-op Performance’ reports and these will be going out to herd-owners next week.

## 5 Sheep Ireland

### LambPlus Recording

- ✚ Many breeders have now completed their intensive first batch of lambing and are now lambing down the ewes that repeated after AI and/or first service. As the pressure decreases breeders have begun to record lambs. The DQI rewards prompt recording of this very important data. The quicker this data is recorded the higher the accuracy. There is also a much higher likelihood for breeders to notice errors in the information as things are fresh in the mind. We will be sending breeders regular reminders to record lambing data over the coming weeks.

### Teagasc National Sheep Conference 2016

- ✚ This week Teagasc hosted two excellent conferences for lowland sheep farmers. The National Hill Sheep Conference is organised for February 17<sup>th</sup> in Donegal, the full details of which can found on the Teagasc website under the ‘events’ section.
- ✚ There was four excellent speakers at this year’s Lowland Conference, two presentations were particularly relevant to Sheep Ireland. Noirin McHugh detailed recent developments with genetic improvement projects in Ireland while Alan Bohan presented his Teagasc Lamb Production Model which essentially can simulate the effect of different on farm scenarios to calculate predicted output/profit. Noirin’s presentation also included the last Euro-Star Index validation work – see below for a summary. Alan’s work will be a valuable tool for Irish sheep farmers but will also be a critical element of the national breed improvement programme as it will be used to update the current economic breeding values being used in our evaluation model.

### Latest Index Validation

- ✚ The slide below shows the data presented by Noirin McHugh at the latest National Sheep Conferences. The data used in this validation is from the Sheep Ireland CPT and from the Teagasc Athenry pedigree flocks. Data from 2013, 2014 & 2015 was included. The Replacement information is based on ewe performance using the ewes Index at the time of mating. The Terminal information is based on Sire performance (performance of their direct progeny), again using the Sires index at the time of mating.
- ✚ In summary there are fairly significant differences in the performance of 5 Star and 1 Star animals. These differences are very clear on the Replacement traits which is hugely encouraging. On the Terminal side, of course we would like to see larger differences. Hopefully these will come in time. In recent years we have consistently selected very high Index rams to enter our CPT – perhaps this approach is reducing variation in our Terminal traits. This is something which we will look at going forward. Taking all differences into account the 5 Star ewes are 17% more efficient than their 1 Star counterparts – a significant difference.
- ✚ While the primary objective of the CPT is not to validate the Euro-Star Indices the data presented by Noirin is encouraging and shows that there are considerable differences in animal performance being predicted by the Indexes. It must be kept in mind that these differences are being predicted at relatively low accuracy and without any parentage validation. If we can increase our average accuracy % year on year and combine this with routine parentage verification using genomics then the potential of the genetic Indices will be maximised for everyone’s benefit.

Index	Trait	★	★★★★★
<b>Replacement</b>	Lamb Mortality (%)	16.64%	9.60%
<b>(Ewe Traits)</b>	Number of lambs born	1.68	1.81
	Ewe weight (kg)	73.40	69.22
<b>Terminal</b>	Lambing Difficulty (%)	34.4%	21.36%
<b>(Ram Traits)</b>	40 day weight (kg)	18.98	19.52
	Weaning weight (kg)	31.94	33.02

**Sean Coughlan** Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email [info@icbf.com](mailto:info@icbf.com). **Registered Office:** Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com). **Registered Office:** Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 27-JAN-2016 To 05-FEB-2016

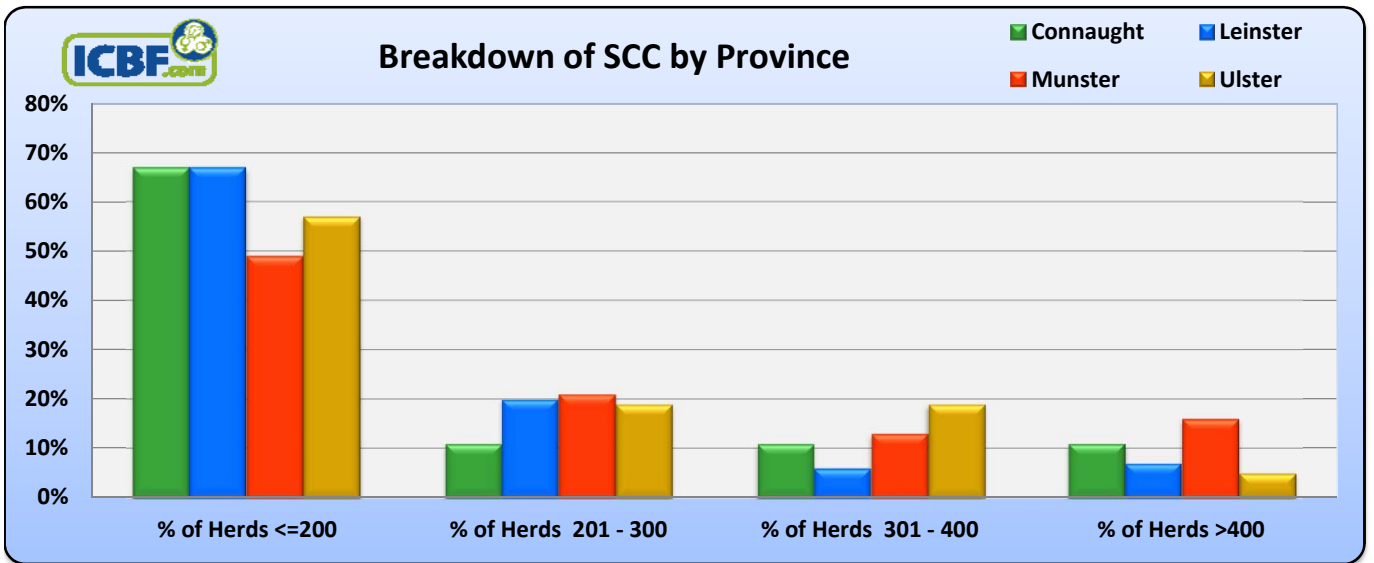
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	18	967	54	24.0	4.13	3.20	137
<b>Leinster</b>	82	7,115	87	23.4	4.34	3.33	169
<b>Munster</b>	97	5,378	55	22.3	4.20	3.33	212
<b>Ulster</b>	21	1,020	49	23.4	4.08	3.28	167
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>14,480</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>183</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 27-JAN-2016 To 05-FEB-2016

No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	18	967	54	67%	11%	11%	137
<b>Leinster</b>	82	7,115	87	67%	20%	6%	169
<b>Munster</b>	97	5,378	55	49%	21%	13%	212
<b>Ulster</b>	21	1,020	49	57%	19%	19%	167
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>14,480</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>183</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 27-JAN-2016 To 05-FEB-2016								
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC	
<b>Connaught</b>	18	967	54	66	124	153	176	322
<b>Leinster</b>	82	7,115	87	105	138	166	182	251
<b>Munster</b>	97	5,378	55	123	176	201	246	365
<b>Ulster</b>	21	1,020	49	96	148	159	203	307
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>14,480</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>312</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

